

In the second half of the twentieth century Norway repeatedly made efforts to become a member of the European Communities, which were later incorporated into the newly created European Union. Two referendums were held – in 1972 and 1994 and in both of them Norwegian citizens decided that Norway will not become a member of the EC/EU. Outcomes of the referendums were narrow, though. Interesting fact is, that referendums in the neighbor states - Denmark (1972) and Sweden (1994) ended up in favor of the European Communities/ the European Union. Bachelor thesis called „Norwegian Accession Process to the EC/EU Compared with Denmark and Sweden“ concentrates on reasons of the different outcome of referendums in Norway compared to Denmark and Sweden. These Scandinavian countries have many similar characteristics, therefore was expected similar outcome. In my opinion there are three main reasons for the different results of the referendums. Firstly, there are Norwegian specifics, such as widely popular fishing and protection of agriculture. Second are economic reasons that are linked to big profits from crude oil and natural gas export. Last reason is strong national pride and fear of losing the decision making in key subjects. In the Norwegian society is still existing trauma connected with history and it is closely related to animosity of the term „union“. These reasons are differentiating Norway from its neighbor states. This bachelor thesis is a case study based on comparison of accession processes in Norway, Denmark and Sweden.